

REMARKS

By the present amendment, present claims 1-4 have been canceled and claims newly added claims 5-8 have been substituted therefor in order to further clarify the concepts of the present invention. With regard to the newly added claims 5-8, the following is to be noted:

Claim 5 - based on the process conditions in Examples 1-3 of the subject specification;

Claim 6 - based on the process conditions in Examples 4-6 of the subject specification;

Claim 7 - based on the process conditions in Example 7 of the subject specification; and

Claim 8 - based on the process conditions in Example 8 of the subject specification.

Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Japanese patent publication to Furukawa et al cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of March 31, 2006. In making this rejection, it was asserted that the cited publication teaches a lithium tantalate of the characteristics as recited in the noted claims. Reconsideration of

this rejection in view of the above claim amendments and the following comments is respectfully requested.

From a careful review of the cited Furukawa et al publication, it is submitted that the publication does not teach or suggest the process as presently claimed. As noted above, the newly added claims more positively distinguish over the teachings of the cited patent publication by, among other things, reciting one or more additional properties of the subject processes which are not disclosed by the cited patent publication.

It is submitted that the patent publication does not disclose such properties and thus the characteristics are not possessed by the prior art products. It is submitted that the products of the subject processes exhibit unexpected or surprising result relative to the compositions of the cited patent publications which tend to demonstrate the unobviousness of the claimed subject matter.

For the reasons stated above, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allowance of claims 5 through 8 over the cited patent publication are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 3 and 4 would be allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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